**Difference between basic and Mobile Telephone Tariff**

†188. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the difference in basic as well as mobile telephone tariff being charged in the country and how does it compare with some selected countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): Comparison of national telecom tariffs with other countries is possible in a single-operator and single-tariff regime. In the multi-operator regime available in different countries, it is not possible to compare the basic and mobile telephone tariffs available in India with those of other countries as a large number of tariff packages are on offer by different operators. Even individual operators offer different tariff packages. Comparison is also difficult because of the varying exchange rates, differences in purchasing power and different teledensities across countries.

**Mobile facility in N.E. Region**

189. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the North Eastern Region where mobile facility has already been provided in the first phase and proposed for the second and third phases;

(b) whether operation of the ban imposed on mobile telephone in most parts of the North Eastern Region has been lifted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when this facility would be made operational in the remaining parts of the North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Licences for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in North East and Assam Telecom Circles which cover the North Eastern Region have been granted to M/s Reliance Telecom (P) Limited & M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.